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*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
DAN KNAUSS  
Telephone: (520) 620-7418

## **PHOENIX MAN SENTENCED TO 78 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR SMUGGLING 255 POUNDS MARIJUANA**

(TUCSON, Ariz.) – On November 21, 2005, Patrick Jason Delaney, 28, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced in here to 78 months imprisonment by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson. Delaney had been found guilty by a federal jury on March 4, 2005, of Possession with Intent to Distribute 255 pounds of marijuana.

Delaney was arrested after the United States National Park Services Rangers stopped his vehicle within the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Rangers followed the tracks of a vehicle that had illegally entered the United States from Mexico through the National Park and was heading north on State Route 85. After stopping the vehicle, Delaney told rangers he had legally entered the United States and he was out birdwatching. The National Park Service K-9 unit alerted to the presence of drugs in the vehicle, and Rangers found 255 pounds of marijuana in a luggage compartment on top of the Cadillac Escalade Delaney was driving. At trial, Delaney argued that he had been vacationing in Mexico when he was forced by unknown Mexican Nationals to illegally enter the United States, and drive north from the international border towards Phoenix with the load of marijuana. The jury found that Delaney knowingly and intentionally possessed with the intent to distribute 255 pounds of marijuana.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the National Park Service. The prosecution is being handled by Celeste Corlett, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-CR-1849-TUC-CKJ  
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